

## **HILLTOP WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC**

*a Registered Investment Adviser*

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Chapel Hill, NC 27517

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Hilltop Wealth Advisors, LLC (hereinafter “Hilltop Wealth Advisors” or the “Firm”). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact the Firm at the telephone number listed above. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or by any state securities authority. Additional information about the Firm is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The Firm is a registered investment adviser. Registration does not imply any level of skill or training.

**Item 2. Material Changes**

In this Item, Hilltop Wealth Advisors is required to discuss any material changes that have been made to the brochure since the last annual update. We will ensure that clients receive a summary of any material changes to this and subsequent Hilltop Wealth Advisors' brochures within 120 days of the close of our fiscal year (December 31<sup>st</sup>).

Since our last Annual Updating Amendment, Dated March 2019, we have relocated our offices to 6340 Quadrangle Drive, Suite 100, Chapel Hill NC, 27517. All other contact information for our firm and personnel remain the same.

Hilltop Wealth Advisors, LLC

SEC No. 801-107408

CRD No. 283014

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## Item 4. Advisory Business

Hilltop Wealth Advisors offers a variety of advisory services, which include financial planning, consulting, and investment management services. Prior to Hilltop Wealth Advisors rendering any of the foregoing advisory services, clients are required to enter into one or more written agreements with Hilltop Wealth Advisors setting forth the relevant terms and conditions of the advisory relationship (the “Advisory Agreement”).

Hilltop Wealth Advisors was formed in 2016 and is owned by Managing Members Benjamin R. Yeager and Russell S. Eriksen. Christopher Hostetler is also an employee shareholder in the firm. Hilltop Wealth Advisors is registered as an investment adviser with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”).

While this brochure generally describes the business of Hilltop Wealth Advisors, certain sections also discuss the activities of its Supervised Persons, which refer to the Firm’s officers, partners, directors (or other persons occupying a similar status or performing similar functions), employees or any other person who provides investment advice on Hilltop Wealth Advisors’ behalf and is subject to the Firm’s supervision or control.

### Financial Planning and Consulting Services

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Hilltop Wealth Advisors offers clients a broad range of financial planning and consulting services, which includes any or all of the following functions:

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Business Planning         | • Insurance Planning  |
| • Cash Flow Forecasting     | • Retirement Planning |
| • Trust and Estate Planning | • Education Planning  |
| • Executive Compensation    | • Tax Planning        |

While each of these services is available on a stand-alone basis, certain of them can also be rendered in conjunction with investment portfolio management as part of a comprehensive wealth management engagement (described in more detail below).

In performing these services, Hilltop Wealth Advisors is not required to verify any information received from the client or from the client’s other professionals (e.g., attorneys, accountants, etc.) and is expressly authorized to rely on such information. Hilltop Wealth Advisors may recommend clients engage the Firm for additional related services, its Supervised Persons in their individual capacities as insurance agents and/or other professionals to implement its recommendations. Clients are advised that a conflict of interest exists if clients engage Hilltop Wealth Advisors or its affiliates to provide additional services for compensation. Clients retain absolute discretion over all decisions regarding implementation and are under

no obligation to act upon any of the recommendations made by Hilltop Wealth Advisors under a financial planning or consulting engagement. Clients are advised that it remains their responsibility to promptly notify the Firm of any change in their financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing, evaluating or revising Hilltop Wealth Advisors' recommendations and/or services.

**Educational Seminars**

Advisory representatives of the firm conduct client seminars for businesses where the advisor will address a range of topics which include discussions of economic conditions, retirement planning or other investment-related topics specific to the particular plan.

**Investment and Wealth Management Services**

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Hilltop Wealth Advisors provides clients with wealth management services which includes a broad range of comprehensive financial planning and consulting services as well as discretionary and/or non-discretionary management of investment portfolios.

Hilltop Wealth Advisors primarily allocates client assets among various mutual funds and exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"). In addition, the Firm will sometimes also allocate client assets to individual debt and equity securities, options and independent investment managers ("Independent Managers").

Where appropriate, the Firm will also provide advice about any type of legacy position or other investment held in client portfolios. Clients may engage Hilltop Wealth Advisors to manage and/or advise on certain investment products that are not maintained at their primary custodian, such as variable life insurance and annuity contracts and assets held in employer sponsored retirement plans and qualified tuition plans (i.e., 529 plans). In these situations, Hilltop Wealth Advisors directs or recommends the allocation of client assets among the various investment options available with the product. These assets are generally maintained at the underwriting insurance company or the custodian designated by the product's provider.

Hilltop Wealth Advisors tailors its advisory services to meet the needs of its individual clients and seeks to ensure, on a continuous basis, that client portfolios are managed in a manner consistent with those needs and objectives. Hilltop Wealth Advisors consults with clients on an initial and ongoing basis to assess their specific risk tolerance, time horizon, liquidity constraints and other related factors relevant to the management of their portfolios. Clients are advised to promptly notify Hilltop Wealth Advisors if there are changes in their financial situation or if they wish to place any limitations on the management of their portfolios. Clients may impose reasonable restrictions or mandates on the management of their accounts if Hilltop Wealth Advisors determines, in its sole discretion, the conditions would not materially impact the performance of a management strategy or prove overly burdensome to the Firm's management efforts.

### **Use of Independent Managers**

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As mentioned above, Hilltop Wealth Advisors will often select certain Independent Managers to actively manage a portion of its clients' assets. The specific terms and conditions under which a client engages an Independent Manager will be set forth in a separate written agreement with the designated Independent Manager. In addition to this brochure, clients must also receive the written disclosure documents of the respective Independent Managers engaged to manage their assets.

Hilltop Wealth Advisors evaluates a variety of information about Independent Managers, which include the Independent Managers' public disclosure documents, materials supplied by the Independent Managers themselves and other third-party analyses it believes are reputable. To the extent possible, the Firm seeks to assess the Independent Managers' investment strategies, past performance and risk results in relation to its clients' individual portfolio allocations and risk exposure. Hilltop Wealth Advisors also takes into consideration each Independent Manager's management style, returns, reputation, financial strength, reporting, pricing and research capabilities, among other factors.

Hilltop Wealth Advisors continues to provide services relative to the discretionary or non-discretionary selection of the Independent Managers. On an ongoing basis, the Firm monitors the performance of those accounts being managed by Independent Managers. Hilltop Wealth Advisors seeks to ensure the Independent Managers' strategies and target allocations remain aligned with its clients' investment objectives and overall best interests.

Hilltop Wealth Advisors frequently hosts social and educational events for clients and potential clients. These range from topical seminars to purely social outings. Some of the cost of these events is borne by the Independent Managers and fund companies which Hilltop Wealth Advisors selects to manage client assets. This creates a conflict of interest in that this financial support is an incentive for Hilltop Wealth Advisors to select these managers over other managers. Hilltop Wealth Advisors mitigates this conflict by (1) only participating in events which we believe are usual and customary business practices, and (2) following the manager selection process described above to ensure that we are acting objectively and in our clients' best interests. Hilltop Wealth does not receive other compensation from these managers.

### **Assets Under Management**

As of February 12, 2020, we managed approximately \$291 million in client assets. These assets were managed on a discretionary basis; where we made the investment decisions for our clients.

## Item 5. Fees and Compensation

Hilltop Wealth Advisors is strictly a fee-only financial planning firm which includes fixed fees as well as fees based upon assets under management. The firm does not sell any commissioned products. Some of the Firm's Supervised Persons may hold insurance licenses which are held strictly for advisory purposes.

### **Financial Planning and Consulting Fees**

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Unless included in the Firm's wealth management services, Hilltop Wealth Advisors charges a fixed fee for providing financial planning and consulting services under a stand-alone engagement. These fees are negotiable, but generally range from \$600 to \$15,000, depending upon the scope and complexity of the services and the professional rendering the financial planning and/or the consulting services. If the client engages the Firm for additional investment advisory services, Hilltop Wealth Advisors will offset all or a portion of its fees for those services based upon the amount paid for the financial planning and/or consulting services.

The terms and conditions of the financial planning and/or consulting engagement are set forth in the Advisory Agreement and Hilltop Wealth Advisors generally requires one-half of the fee (estimated hourly or fixed) payable upon execution of the Advisory Agreement. The outstanding balance is generally due upon delivery of the financial plan or completion of the agreed upon services. The Firm does not, however, take receipt of \$1,200 or more in prepaid fees in excess of six months in advance of services rendered.

### **Fees for Educational Seminars**

Fees charged for the firm to conduct client seminars for businesses is negotiated on a case by case basis and ranges from reimbursement of expenses for non-profit organizations up to a maximum of \$15,000.

The terms and conditions of the educational seminar engagement are set forth in the Advisory Agreement and Hilltop Wealth Advisors generally requires one-half of the fee (estimated hourly or fixed) payable upon execution of the Advisory Agreement. The outstanding balance is generally due upon delivery of the seminar. The Firm does not, however, take receipt of \$1,200 or more in prepaid fees in excess of six months in advance of services rendered.

### Wealth Management Fees

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Hilltop Wealth Advisors offers investment management services for an annual fee based on the amount of assets under the Firm's management. This management fee varies in accordance with the following fee schedule:

PORTFOLIO VALUE	FEE
Under \$100,000	1.50%
\$100,000 - \$249,999	1.25%
\$250,000 - \$499,999	1.20%
\$500,000 - \$999,999	1.00%
\$1,000,000 - \$1,999,999	0.90%
\$2,000,000 - \$2,999,999	0.80%
\$3,000,000 - \$4,999,999	0.70%
\$5,000,000 and Above	Negotiable

The annual fee is prorated and charged monthly, in arrears, based upon the market value of the average daily account balance during that billing period. Since the asset-based fee is determined by average daily account balance, if assets are deposited into or withdrawn from an account after the inception of a month, the base fee payable with respect to such assets is adjusted accordingly. For the initial period of an engagement, the fee is calculated on a *pro rata* basis. In the event the advisory agreement is terminated, the fee for the final billing period is prorated through the effective date of the termination and the outstanding or unearned portion of the fee is charged or refunded to the client, as appropriate.

Additionally, for asset management services the Firm provides with respect to certain client holdings (e.g., held-away assets, accommodation accounts, alternative investments, etc.), Hilltop Wealth Advisors may negotiate a fee rate that differs from the range set forth above.

### Fee Discretion

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Hilltop Wealth Advisors's fees are negotiable, at the firm's sole discretion and based upon certain criteria, such as anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, pre-existing/legacy client relationship, account retention and pro bono activities.



### **Additional Fees and Expenses**

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In addition to the advisory fees paid to Hilltop Wealth Advisors, clients will also incur certain charges imposed by other third parties, such as broker-dealers, custodians, trust companies, banks and other financial institutions (collectively “Financial Institutions”). These additional charges include securities brokerage commissions, transaction fees, custodial fees, fees charged by the Independent Managers, margin costs, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund or ETF in a client’s account, as disclosed in the fund’s prospectus (e.g., fund management fees and other fund expenses), deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. The Firm’s brokerage practices are described at length in Item 12, below.

### **Direct Fee Debit**

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Clients generally provide Hilltop Wealth Advisors and/or certain Independent Managers with the authority to directly debit their accounts for payment of the investment advisory fees. The Financial Institutions that act as the qualified custodian for client accounts, from which the Firm retains the authority to directly deduct fees, have agreed to send statements to clients not less than quarterly detailing all account transactions, including any amounts paid to Hilltop Wealth Advisors. Alternatively, in limited circumstances, the Firm will send a separate invoice for direct payment.

### **Account Additions and Withdrawals**

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Clients may make additions to and withdrawals from their account at any time, subject to Hilltop Wealth Advisors’ right to terminate an account. Additions may be in cash or securities provided that the Firm reserves the right to liquidate any transferred securities or declines to accept particular securities into a client’s account. Clients may withdraw account assets on notice to Hilltop Wealth Advisors, subject to the usual and customary securities settlement procedures. However, the Firm generally designs its portfolios as long-term investments and the withdrawal of assets may impair the achievement of a client’s investment objectives. Hilltop Wealth Advisors may consult with its clients about the options and implications of transferring securities. Clients are advised that when transferred securities are liquidated, they will sometimes be subject to transaction fees, short-term redemption fees, fees assessed at the mutual fund level (e.g., contingent deferred sales charges) and/or tax ramifications.

## **Item 6. Performance-Based Fees and Side-by-Side Management**

Hilltop Wealth Advisors does not provide any services for a performance-based fee (i.e., a fee based on a share of capital gains or capital appreciation of a client's assets).

## **Item 7. Types of Clients**

Hilltop Wealth Advisors offers services to individuals, trusts, estates, corporations and business entities.

## **Item 8. Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss**

### **Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategy**

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Hilltop Wealth Advisors utilizes a fundamental analysis while employing an asset allocation strategy based on a derivative of Modern Portfolio Theory ("MPT").

Fundamental analysis involves an evaluation of the fundamental financial condition and competitive position of a particular fund or issuer. For Hilltop Wealth Advisors, this process typically involves an analysis of an issuer's management team, investment strategies, style drift, past performance, reputation and financial strength in relation to the asset class concentrations and risk exposures of the Firm's model asset allocations. A substantial risk in relying upon fundamental analysis is that while the overall health and position of a company may be good, evolving market conditions may negatively impact the security.

Modern Portfolio Theory ("MPT") is a mathematical based investment discipline that seeks to quantify expected portfolio returns in relation to corresponding portfolio risk. The basic premise of MPT is that the risk of a particular holding is to be assessed by comparing its price variations against those of the market portfolio. However, MPT disregards certain investment considerations and is based on a series of assumptions that may not necessarily reflect actual market conditions. As such, the factors for which MPT does not account (e.g., tax implications, regulatory constraints and brokerage costs) may negate the upside or add to the actual risk of a particular allocation. Nevertheless, Hilltop Wealth Advisors' investment process is structured in such a way to integrate those assumptions and real life considerations for which MPT analytics do not account.

Hilltop Wealth Advisors uses a tactical asset allocation approach, employed primarily via Mutual Funds and Exchange Traded Funds. The Firm will exercise trading discretion and manage to a model portfolio chosen by client.

## Risk of Loss

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### *Market Risks*

Investing involves risk, including the potential loss of principal, and all investors should be guided accordingly. The profitability of a significant portion of Hilltop Wealth Advisors' recommendations and/or investment decisions may depend to a great extent upon correctly assessing the future course of price movements of stocks, bonds and other asset classes. There can be no assurance that Hilltop Wealth Advisors will be able to predict those price movements accurately or capitalize on any such assumptions.

### *Mutual Funds and ETFs*

An investment in a mutual fund or ETF involves risk, including the loss of principal. Mutual fund and ETF shareholders are necessarily subject to the risks stemming from the individual issuers of the fund's underlying portfolio securities. Such shareholders are also liable for taxes on any fund-level capital gains, as mutual funds and ETFs are required by law to distribute capital gains in the event they sell securities for a profit that cannot be offset by a corresponding loss.

Shares of mutual funds are generally distributed and redeemed on an ongoing basis by the fund itself or a broker acting on its behalf. The trading price at which a share is transacted is equal to a fund's stated daily per share net asset value ("NAV"), plus any shareholders fees (e.g., sales loads, purchase fees, redemption fees). The per share NAV of a mutual fund is calculated at the end of each business day, although the actual NAV fluctuates with intraday changes to the market value of the fund's holdings. The trading prices of a mutual fund's shares may differ significantly from the NAV during periods of market volatility, which may, among other factors, lead to the mutual fund's shares trading at a premium or discount to actual NAV.

Shares of ETFs are listed on securities exchanges and transacted at negotiated prices in the secondary market. Generally, ETF shares trade at or near their most recent NAV, which is generally calculated at least once daily for indexed based ETFs and potentially more frequently for actively managed ETFs. However, certain inefficiencies may cause the shares to trade at a premium or discount to their pro rata NAV. There is also no guarantee that an active secondary market for such shares will develop or continue to exist. Generally, an ETF only redeems shares when aggregated as creation units (usually 20,000 shares or more). Therefore, if a liquid secondary market ceases to exist for shares of a particular ETF, a shareholder may have no way to dispose of such shares.

### *Use of Independent Managers*

As stated above, Hilltop Wealth Advisors will sometimes select certain Independent Managers to manage a portion of its clients' assets. In these situations, Hilltop Wealth Advisors continues to conduct ongoing due diligence of such managers, but such recommendations rely to a great extent on the Independent Managers' ability to successfully implement their investment strategies. In addition, Hilltop Wealth Advisors generally will not have the ability to supervise the Independent Managers on a day-to-day basis.

*Options*

Options allow investors to buy or sell a security at a contracted “strike” price at or within a specific period of time. Clients normally pay or collect a premium for buying or selling an option. Investors transact in options to either hedge (i.e., limit) losses in an attempt to reduce risk or to speculate on the performance of the underlying securities. Options transactions contain a number of inherent risks, including the partial or total loss of principal in the event that the value of the underlying security or index does not increase/decrease to the level of the respective strike price. Holders of options contracts are also subject to default by the option writer which may be unwilling or unable to perform its contractual obligations.

**Item 9. Disciplinary Information**

Hilltop Wealth Advisors has not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client’s evaluation of its advisory business or the integrity of its management.

**Item 10. Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

This item requires investment advisers to disclose certain financial industry activities and affiliations. The Firm does not have any other financial industry activities or affiliations that need to be disclosed.

**Licensed Insurance Agents**

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Some of the Firm’s Supervised Persons hold insurance licenses for strictly advisory purposes. Hilltop Wealth Advisors nor its Supervised Persons as an Outside Business Activity sell annuities, insurance or other commissioned products. The firm is not affiliated with entities that sell financial products. Commissions in any form are not accepted nor finder’s fees.

**Item 11. Code of Ethics**

Hilltop Wealth Advisors has adopted a code of ethics in compliance with applicable securities laws (“Code of Ethics”) that sets forth the standards of conduct expected of its Supervised Persons. As an Investment Advisor, Hilltop Wealth Advisors is considered a fiduciary. As a fiduciary, it is our responsibility to provide fair and full disclosure of all material facts and to act solely in the best interest of each of our clients at all times. Our fiduciary duty is the core underlying principal for our Code of Ethics.

Hilltop Wealth Advisors' Code of Ethics contains written policies reasonably designed to prevent certain unlawful practices such as the use of material non-public information by the Firm or any of its Supervised Persons and the trading by the same of securities ahead of clients in order to take advantage of pending orders.

The Code of Ethics also requires certain of Hilltop Wealth Advisors' personnel to report their personal securities holdings and transactions and obtain pre-approval of certain investments (*e.g.*, initial public offerings, limited offerings). However, the Firm's Supervised Persons are permitted to buy or sell securities that it also recommends to clients if done in a fair and equitable manner that is consistent with the Firm's policies and procedures. This Code of Ethics has been established recognizing that some securities trade in sufficiently broad markets to permit transactions by certain personnel to be completed without any appreciable impact on the markets of such securities. Therefore, under limited circumstances, exceptions are made to the policies stated below.

When the Firm is engaging in or considering a transaction in any security on behalf of a client, no Supervised Person with access to this information may knowingly effect for themselves or for their immediate family (*i.e.*, spouse, minor children and adults living in the same household) a transaction in that security unless:

- the transaction has been completed;
- the transaction for the Supervised Person is completed as part of a batch trade with clients; or
- a decision has been made not to engage in the transaction for the client.

These requirements are not applicable to: (i) direct obligations of the Government of the United States; (ii) money market instruments, bankers' acceptances, bank certificates of deposit, commercial paper, repurchase agreements and other high quality short-term debt instruments, including repurchase agreements; (iii) shares issued by mutual funds or money market funds; and (iv) shares issued by unit investment trusts that are invested exclusively in one or more mutual funds.

Clients and prospective clients may contact Hilltop Wealth Advisors to request a copy of its Code of Ethics.

## **Item 12. Brokerage Practices**

### **Recommendation of Broker/Dealers for Client Transactions**

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Hilltop Wealth Advisors generally recommends that clients utilize the custody, brokerage and clearing services of Fidelity Institutional Wealth Services ("Fidelity") for investment management accounts. Factors which Hilltop Wealth Advisors considers in recommending Fidelity or any other broker-dealer to clients include their respective financial strength, reputation, execution, pricing, research and service. Fidelity may enable the Firm to obtain many mutual funds without transaction charges and other securities at

nominal transaction charges. The commissions and/or transaction fees charged by Fidelity may be higher or lower than those charged by other Financial Institutions.

The commissions paid by Hilltop Wealth Advisors' clients to Fidelity comply with the Firm's duty to obtain "best execution." Clients may pay commissions that are higher than another qualified Financial Institution might charge to effect the same transaction where Hilltop Wealth Advisors determines that the commissions are reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services received. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a Financial Institution's services, including among others, the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates and responsiveness. Hilltop Wealth Advisors seeks competitive rates but may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for client transactions.

Consistent with obtaining best execution, brokerage transactions may be directed to certain broker/dealers in return for investment research products and/or services which assist Hilltop Wealth Advisors in its investment decision-making process. Such research generally will be used to service all of the Firm's clients, but brokerage commissions paid by one client may be used to pay for research that is not used in managing that client's portfolio. The receipt of investment research products and/or services as well as the allocation of the benefit of such investment research products and/or services poses a conflict of interest because Hilltop Wealth Advisors does not have to produce or pay for the products or services.

Hilltop Wealth Advisors periodically and systematically reviews its policies and procedures regarding its recommendation of Financial Institutions in light of its duty to obtain best execution.

#### **Software and Support Provided by Financial Institutions**

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Hilltop Wealth Advisors may receive without cost from Fidelity computer software and related systems support, which allow Hilltop Wealth Advisors to better monitor client accounts maintained at Fidelity. Hilltop Wealth Advisors receives the software and related support without cost because the Firm renders investment management services to clients that maintain assets at Fidelity. The software and support is not provided in connection with securities transactions of clients (i.e., not "soft dollars"). The software and related systems support may benefit Hilltop Wealth Advisors, but not its clients directly. In fulfilling its duties to its clients, Hilltop Wealth Advisors endeavors at all times to put the interests of its clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that Hilltop Wealth Advisors' receipt of economic benefits from a broker/dealer creates a conflict of interest since these benefits may influence the Firm's choice of broker/dealer over another that does not furnish similar software, systems support or services.

Specifically, Hilltop Wealth Advisors receives the following benefits from Fidelity:

- Credits to be used toward qualifying third-party service providers used in connection with the initial

set up of the Firm's research, technology and software platforms;

- Receipt of duplicate client confirmations and bundled duplicate statements;
- Access to a trading desk that exclusively services its institutional traders;
- Access to block trading which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions and then allocate the appropriate shares to client accounts; and
- Access to an electronic communication network for client order entry and account information.

### **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

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Hilltop Wealth Advisors does not consider, in selecting or recommending broker/dealers, whether the Firm receives client referrals from the Financial Institutions or other third party.

### **Directed Brokerage**

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Hilltop Wealth Advisors does not accept Directed Brokerage arrangements.

### **Trade Aggregation**

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Transactions for each client generally will be effected independently, unless Hilltop Wealth Advisors decides to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. Hilltop Wealth Advisors may (but is not obligated to) combine or "batch" such orders to obtain best execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates or to allocate equitably among the Firm's clients differences in prices and commissions or other transaction costs that might not have been obtained had such orders been placed independently. Under this procedure, transactions will generally be averaged as to price and allocated among Hilltop Wealth Advisors' clients pro rata to the purchase and sale orders placed for each client on any given day. To the extent that the Firm determines to aggregate client orders for the purchase or sale of securities, including securities in which Hilltop Wealth Advisors' Supervised Persons may invest, the Firm generally does so in accordance with applicable rules promulgated under the Advisers Act and no-action guidance provided by the staff of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Hilltop Wealth Advisors does not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of the aggregation. This practice may result in external commissions, transaction costs, and other custodial and processing fees which are not included in your advisory fees and which may not be readily apparent. These costs are not charged by Hilltop Wealth Advisors and do not benefit the firm or its personnel.

In the event that the Firm determines that a prorated allocation is not appropriate under the particular circumstances, the allocation will be made based upon other relevant factors, which may include: (i) when only a small percentage of the order is executed, shares may be allocated to the account with the smallest

order or the smallest position or to an account that is out of line with respect to security or sector weightings relative to other portfolios, with similar mandates; (ii) allocations may be given to one account when one account has limitations in its investment guidelines which prohibit it from purchasing other securities which are expected to produce similar investment results and can be purchased by other accounts; (iii) if an account reaches an investment guideline limit and cannot participate in an allocation, shares may be reallocated to other accounts (this may be due to unforeseen changes in an account's assets after an order is placed); (iv) with respect to sale allocations, allocations may be given to accounts low in cash; (v) in cases when a pro rata allocation of a potential execution would result in a de minimis allocation in one or more accounts, the Firm may exclude the account(s) from the allocation; the transactions may be executed on a pro rata basis among the remaining accounts; or (vi) in cases where a small proportion of an order is executed in all accounts, shares may be allocated to one or more accounts on a random basis.

## **Item 13. Review of Accounts**

### **Account Reviews**

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Hilltop Wealth Advisors monitors client portfolios on a continuous and ongoing basis. All investment advisory clients are encouraged to discuss their needs, goals and objectives with Hilltop Wealth Advisors and to keep the Firm informed of any changes thereto. The Firm contacts ongoing investment advisory clients at least annually to review its previous services and/or recommendations and quarterly to discuss the impact resulting from any changes in the client's financial situation and/or investment objectives.

### **Account Statements and Reports**

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Clients are provided with transaction confirmation notices and regular summary account statements directly from the Financial Institutions where their assets are custodied. From time-to-time or as otherwise requested, clients may also receive written or electronic reports from Hilltop Wealth Advisors and/or an outside service provider, which contain certain account and/or market-related information, such as an inventory of account holdings or account performance. Clients should compare the account statements they receive from their custodian with any documents or reports they receive from Hilltop Wealth Advisors or an outside service provider.

## **Item 14. Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

The Firm does not currently provide compensation to any third-party solicitors for client referrals. Any affiliated solicitor of Hilltop Wealth Advisors is required to disclose the nature of his or her relationship to prospective clients at the time of the solicitation and will provide all prospective clients with a copy of the Firm's written brochure(s) at the time of the solicitation.



**Item 15. Custody**

The Advisory Agreement and/or the separate agreement with any Financial Institution generally authorize Hilltop Wealth Advisors and/or the Independent Managers to debit client accounts for payment of the Firm's fees and to directly remit that those funds to the Firm in accordance with applicable custody rules. The Financial Institutions that act as the qualified custodian for client accounts, from which the Firm retains the authority to directly deduct fees, have agreed to send statements to clients not less than quarterly detailing all account transactions, including any amounts paid to Hilltop Wealth Advisors.

Hilltop Wealth Advisors helps its clients to, at their request, transfer funds to third parties. Under Securities and Exchange Commission guidance released in 2017, Hilltop Wealth Advisors is considered to have custody of client assets in accounts for which it provides this service. Hilltop Wealth Advisors, in collaboration with the qualified custodian who holds the client assets, has controls in place to safeguard against loss or misappropriation of these assets.

In addition, as discussed in Item 13, Hilltop Wealth Advisors may also send periodic supplemental reports to clients. Clients should carefully review the statements sent directly by the Financial Institutions and compare them to those received from Hilltop Wealth Advisors.

**Item 16. Investment Discretion**

Hilltop Wealth Advisors will normally be given the authority to exercise discretion on behalf of clients. Hilltop Wealth Advisors is considered to exercise investment discretion over a client's account if it can effect and/or direct transactions in client accounts without first seeking their consent. Hilltop Wealth Advisors is given this authority through a power-of-attorney included in the agreement between Hilltop Wealth Advisors and the client. Clients may request a limitation on this authority (such as certain securities not to be bought or sold). Hilltop Wealth Advisors takes discretion over the following activities:

- The securities to be purchased or sold;
- The amount of securities to be purchased or sold;
- When transactions are made; and
- The Independent Managers to be hired or fired.

**Item 17. Voting Client Securities**

Hilltop Wealth Advisors generally does not accept the authority to vote a client's securities (i.e., proxies) on their behalf. Clients receive proxies directly from the Financial Institutions where their assets are custodied and may contact the Firm at the contact information on the cover of this brochure with questions about any such issuer solicitations.

**Item 18. Financial Information**

Hilltop Wealth Advisors is not required to disclose any financial information due to the following:

- The Firm does not require or solicit the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees six months or more in advance of services rendered;
- The Firm does not have a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet contractual commitments to clients; and
- The Firm has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time during the past ten years.